

MEAP Reading Standard Setting Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

There are four Performance Levels on MEAP in reading:

- (1) Exceeded Michigan Standards
- (2) Met Michigan Standards
- (3) Basic
- (4) Apprentice

The Reading Standard Setting PLDs define in detail what students at each grade and performance level should know and be able to do in relation to the Michigan Reading Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs).

In September 2005, groups of Michigan educators were brought together to develop these PLDs, taking into account both the curriculum framework and the reading assessments themselves. In January 2006, the PLDs were used by Michigan educators, parents, and community members to determine recommended cut scores between the performance levels. The recommended cut scores were formally adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education in January 2006.

In this document, only the first three levels are defined explicitly. The fourth level (*apprentice*) is defined as not meeting the requirements for the *basic* level.

The PLDs are presented in two ways:

- 1. Within grade level across performance levels—this presentation shows how performance progresses from one performance level to the next within each grade.
- 2. Within performance level across grades—this presentation shows how student performance progresses from one grade to another within each performance level.

You may note that in reading, some of the skills described do not change much over grade level. This is because the skills themselves do not change, but the reading materials they are based on increase in complexity consistent with the materials students in each grade level are expected to read.

The Reading MEAP given in the Fall in grades 3-8 measured the reading knowledge and skills expected at the end of grades 2-7.

MEAP Reading Grade 3 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels) (Addresses Grade 2 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Identifies the main/major ideas and limited	Identifies important details and how they	Identifies details and how they relate to
details in narrative and informational text.	relate to the main/major ideas in narrative	and support the main/major ideas in
	and informational text.	narrative and informational text.
Identifies characters, plots, and settings in	Identifies relationships among characters,	Accurately compares and contrasts
text.	settings, and plots within and across texts.	characters, settings, and plots within and
		across texts.
Makes some superficial text-to-text	Addresses specific cross-text task, making	Addresses specific cross-text task,
connections, possibly revealing major	connections, revealing understanding	effectively making valid and important
misconceptions.	despite possible minor misconceptions.	connections without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features	Identifies text elements and major features	Recognizes and explains text elements and
of different genres.	of different genres.	features related to different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features	Identifies text elements and features	Analyzes and evaluates a variety of text
authors and illustrators use to convey	authors and illustrators use to convey	elements and features authors and
meaning.	meaning.	illustrators use to convey meaning.
Makes limited use of context cues to	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues
determine meaning of frequently	to determine meaning of some unknown	to determine meaning of unfamiliar words
encountered words.	words and phrases.	and phrases in context.

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MEAP Reading Grade 4 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels) (Addresses Grade 3 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Identifies limited details and how they	Identifies important details and how they	Identifies and analyzes details and how
relate to the main/major ideas in narrative	relate to and support the main/major ideas	they relate to and support the main/major
and informational text.	in narrative and informational text.	ideas in narrative and informational text.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.
Makes some superficial text-to-text	Addresses specific cross-text task, making	Addresses specific cross-text task,
connections, possibly revealing major	connections, revealing understanding	effectively making valid and important
misconceptions.	despite possible minor misconceptions.	connections without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features	Identifies text elements and most features	Identifies and explains text elements and
of different genres.	of different genres.	features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features	Identifies text elements and features	Analyzes and evaluates text elements and
authors use to convey meaning.	authors use to convey meaning.	features authors use to develop a theme and to aid comprehension.
Makes limited use of context cues to	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues
determine meaning of frequently	to determine meaning of some unknown	to determine meaning of unfamiliar words
encountered words.	words and phrases and multiple meaning	and phrases and multiple meaning words in
	words.	context.

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MEAP Reading Grade 5 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels) (Addresses Grade 4 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)	
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build	Retells, summarizes, and builds inferences	Demonstrates insightful and accurate	
inferences based on literal comprehension.	from text.	understanding by building inferences and	
		making thorough connections within and across texts.	
Identifies some relationships among	Identifies and explains relationships among	Accurately explains relationships among	
characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	characters and themes within and across texts.	texts, characters and themes within and across texts.	
Makes some superficial connections within	Effectively addresses specific cross-text	Responds to specific cross-text task	
and across text, possibly revealing major	task, making connections and revealing	thoroughly and effectively without	
misconceptions.	understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	misconceptions.	
Identifies some text elements and features	Demonstrates knowledge of different	Shows understanding of different genres,	
of different genres.	genres, including purposes, text elements,	including purposes, text elements, and	
	and features.	features.	
Identifies some text elements and features	Identifies author's purpose and use of text	Analyzes and evaluates author's purpose	
authors use to convey meaning.	elements and features to convey meaning.	and use of text elements and features to	
		enhance meaning.	
Makes limited use of context clues to	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues	Uses context clues to determine meaning	
determine meaning of frequently	to determine meaning of some unknown	of unfamiliar words and phrases and	
encountered words.	words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	multiple meaning words in context.	

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MEAP Reading Grade 6 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels) (Addresses Grade 5 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)	
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build	Retells, summarizes, and builds inferences	Demonstrates insightful and accurate	
inferences based on literal comprehension.	from text.	understanding by building inferences and making thorough connections within and across texts.	
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies and explains relationships among characters and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters, and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.	
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.	
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.	
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies author's purpose and use of text elements and features to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates author's purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.	
Makes limited use of context clues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	

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MEAP Reading Grade 7 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels) (Addresses Grade 6 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Builds inferences, summarizes, and applies knowledge from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by synthesizing and applying knowledge from text.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Connects relationships, themes, perspectives and universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to enhance meaning and to make content accessible.	Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Attempts to determine meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in text.	Determines meaning of some unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words encountered in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

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MEAP Reading Grade 8 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels) (Addresses Grade 7 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Builds inferences, summarizes, and applies knowledge from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by synthesizing and applying knowledge from text.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Connects relationships, themes, perspectives and universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purpose, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to enhance meaning and to make content accessible.	Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Attempts to determine meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in text.	Determines meaning of some unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words encountered in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

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MEAP Reading "Met Standards" Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 3-8)
(Addresses Grades 2-7 Knowledge and Skills)

		In Grade 5:	In Grade 6:	In Grade 7:	In Grade 8:
Identifies important details and	Identifies important details and	Retells, summarizes, and builds	Retells, summarizes, and builds	Builds inferences, summarizes,	Builds inferences, summarizes,
how they relate to the	how they relate to and support	inferences from text.	inferences from text.	and applies knowledge from text.	and applies knowledge from text.
main/major ideas in narrative and	the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.				
informational text.	and informational text.				
Identifies relationships among	Compares and contrasts	Identifies and explains	Identifies and explains	Connects relationships, themes,	Connects relationships, themes,
characters, settings, and plots	characters, settings, and plots	relationships among characters	relationships among characters and	perspectives and universal truths	perspectives and universal truths
within and across texts.	within and across texts.	and themes within and across	global themes/universal truths	within and across texts.	within and across texts.
		texts.	within and across texts.		
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possiole immor imseoneeptions.	possiole immor imisconceptions.			minor imisconceptions.	inition initiations.
Identifies text elements and	Identifies text elements and most	Demonstrates knowledge of	Demonstrates knowledge of	Demonstrates knowledge of	Demonstrates knowledge of
major features of different	features of different genres.	different genres, including	different genres, including		different genres, including
genres.			• •		purposes, text elements, and
		teatures.	features.	teatures.	features.
Identifies text elements and	Identifies text elements and	Identifies author's purpose and	Identifies author's purpose and	Identifies how authors use text	Identifies how authors use text
features authors and illustrators		use of text elements and features	use of text elements and features	elements and features to enhance	elements and features to enhance
use to convey meaning.	meaning.	to convey meaning.	to convey meaning.	meaning and to make content	meaning and to make content
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words and pinases.				cheduntered in context.	cheountered in context.
Addresses specific cross-text task, making connections, revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions. Identifies text elements and major features of different genres. Identifies text elements and features authors and illustrators	Addresses specific cross-text task, making connections, revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions. Identifies text elements and most features of different genres. Identifies text elements and features authors use to convey	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions. Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features. Identifies author's purpose and use of text elements and features	within and across texts. Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions. Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features. Identifies author's purpose and use of text elements and features	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions. Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features. Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance	Effectively addresses specross-text task, revealing understanding despite pominor misconceptions. Demonstrates knowledged different genres, includin purposes, text elements, a features. Identifies how authors use elements and features to en

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MEAP Reading "Exceeded Standards" Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 3-8)
(Addresses Grades 2-7 Knowledge and Skills)

In Grade 3:	In Grade 4:	In Grade 5:	In Grade 6:	In Grade 7:	In Grade 8:
Identifies details and how they	Identifies and analyzes details and	Demonstrates insightful and accurate	Demonstrates insightful and accurate	Demonstrates insightful and	Demonstrates insightful and
relate to and support the	how they relate to and support the	understanding by building inferences	understanding by building inferences	accurate understanding by	accurate understanding by
main/major ideas in narrative	main/major ideas in narrative and	and making thorough connections	and making thorough connections	synthesizing and applying	synthesizing and applying
and informational text.	informational text.	within and across texts.	within and across texts.	knowledge from text.	knowledge from text.
Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters and themes within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.
Addresses specific cross-text task, effectively making valid and important connections without misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, effectively making valid and important connections without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.
Recognizes and explains text elements and features related to different genres.	Identifies and explains text elements and features of different genres.	Shows understanding of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Analyzes and evaluates a variety of text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates text elements and features authors use to develop a theme and to aid comprehension.	Analyzes and evaluates author's purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates author's purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in context.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

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MEAP Reading "Basic" Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 3-8) (Addresses Grades 2-7 Knowledge and Skills)

In Grade 3:	In Grade 4:	In Grade 5:	In Grade 6:	In Grade 7:	In Grade 8:
Identifies the main/major ideas and limited details in narrative	Identifies limited details and how they relate to the main/major ideas	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal
and informational text.	in narrative and informational text.	comprehension.	literal comprehension.	comprehension.	comprehension.
Identifies characters, plots, and	Identifies some relationships	Identifies some relationships	Identifies some relationships	Identifies some relationships	Identifies some relationships
settings in text.	among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.
	prots within and deross texts.	prots within and across texts.	prots within and across texts.	plots within and across texts.	prots within and deross texts.
Makes some superficial text-	Makes some superficial text-to-	Makes some superficial	Makes some superficial	Makes some superficial	Makes some superficial
to-text connections, possibly	text connections, possibly	connections within and across text,	connections within and across	connections within and across	connections within and across
revealing major	revealing major misconceptions.	possibly revealing major	text, possibly revealing major	text, possibly revealing major	text, possibly revealing major
misconceptions.		misconceptions.	misconceptions.	misconceptions.	misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and
and features of different genres.	features of different genres.	features of different genres.	features of different genres.	features of different genres.	features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and	Identifies some text elements and
and features authors and	features authors use to convey	features authors use to convey	features authors use to convey	features authors use to enhance	features authors use to enhance
illustrators use to convey	meaning.	meaning.	meaning.	meaning and to make content	meaning and to make content
meaning.	6	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		accessible.	accessible.
Makes limited use of context	Makes limited use of context cues	Makes limited use of context clues	Makes limited use of context	Attempts to determine meaning of	Attempts to determine meaning of
cues to determine meaning of	to determine meaning of	to determine meaning of	clues to determine meaning of	unfamiliar words encountered in	unfamiliar words encountered in
frequently encountered words.	frequently encountered words.	frequently encountered words.	frequently encountered words.	text.	text.

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